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DE RUEHSO #0032 0201118  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 201118Z JAN 09  
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8879  
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 0026  
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 8989

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000032

SIPDIS

STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

DEPT PASS USTR

USDOC 4322/MAC/OLAC/JAFEE  
E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: Media Reaction Sao Paulo: New Chavista Gambit

Title- New Chavista Gambit

Editorial in liberal Folha de S. Paulo (1-16) states: "Changes in [the Venezuelan] policy that can affect the President's popularity are expected due to Venezuela's economic degradation....With the worsening of the crisis, Chavez has eased attacks against the opposition. ...The latest polls indicate that the Venezuelan population, for now, does not seem to be inclined to respond positively to the new Chavista gambit [infinite reelection of the president] of making it possible for his new authoritarian project of perpetually staying in power to be feasible.

WHITE